BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:)	
RICARDO OSCAR DI SARLI, M.D.)	Case No. 8002014007134
Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A49771)	
Respondent).	

DECISION

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on February 7, 2018

IT IS SO ORDERED January 31, 2018.

MEDIÇAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Kimberly Kirchme

Executive Director

1	XAVIER BECERRA				
2	Attorney General of California E.A. JONES III				
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General EDWARD KIM				
	Deputy Attorney General				
4	State Bar No. 195729 California Department of Justice				
5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013				
6	Telephone: (213) 269-6000				
7	Facsimile: (213) 897-9395 Attorneys for Complainant				
8	BEFO	BEFORE THE			
9	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS				
		CALIFORNIA			
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11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2014-007134			
12	RICARDO OSCAR DI SARLI, M.D.	OAH No. 2017090319			
13	1568 North Orange Grove Avenue Pomona, CA 91767	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF			
14	Physician's and Surgeon's	LICENSE AND ORDER			
15	Certificate No. A 49771				
16	Respondent.	,			
•	IT IS HEDERY STIPLH ATED AND AC	DEED by and battycan the parties to the above-			
17		REED by and between the parties to the above-			
18	entitled proceedings that the following matters	are true:			
19	PA:	RTIES			
20	Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainan	t) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board			
21	of California (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in				
22	this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Edward Kim,				
23	Deputy Attorney General.				
24	2. RICARDO OSCAR DI SARLI, M.	D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding			
25	by attorney Nicholas D. Jurkowitz, Esq., whose address is 1990 S. Bundy Drive, Suite 777, Los				
26	Angeles, CA 90025.				
27	3. On or about July 30, 1991, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate				
28	No. A 49771 to Respondent. The Physician's a	and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and			

effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2014-007134 and will expire on November 30, 2018, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 800-2014-007134 was filed before the (Board), and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on July 26, 2017. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2014-007134 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2014-007134. Respondent also has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- 8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation No. 800-2014-007134, agrees that cause exists for discipline and hereby surrenders his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 49771 for the Board's formal acceptance.
- 9. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation he enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate without further process.

CONTINGENCY

- 10. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and surrender, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 11. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order, including Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 12. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Order:

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 49771, issued to Respondent RICARDO OSCAR DI SARLI, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Medical Board of California.

- 1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Medical Board of California.
- 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a Physician and Surgeon in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.
- 3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board his pocket license and, if one was issued, his wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.
 - 4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in

the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2014-007134 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.

5. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation, No. 800-2014-007134 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Nicholas D. Jurkowitz, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

DATED: 12 5 2017

RICARDO OSCAR DI SARLI, M.D.

Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent RICARDO OSCAR DI SARLI, M.D. the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and

Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: 12/7/2017 NICHOLAS D. JURKOWIFZ
Attorney for Respondent

Henry Feuton

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted

1	for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.
2	Dated: $(2/7/17)$ Respectfully submitted,
3 4	XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California E.A. JONES III Supervising Deputy Attorney General
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7	EDWARD KIM Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant
8	Attorneys for Complainant
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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2014-007134

FILED STATE OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORN': SACRAMENTO July 20 20/7 BY: K. Voorg Analyst

XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California 2 E.A. JONES III Supervising Deputy Attorney General 3 EDWARD KIM Deputy Attorney General 4 State Bar No. 195729 California Department of Justice 5 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013 6 Telephone: (213) 897-2000 Facsimile: (213) 897-9395 7 Attorneys for Complainant

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BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2014-007134

Ricardo Oscar Di Sarli, M.D. 1568 North Orange Grove Pomona, California 91767 ACCUSATION

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A49771,

Respondent.

Complainant alleges:

1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).

PARTIES

2. On or about July 30, 1991, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A49771 to Ricardo Oscar Di Sarli, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on November 30, 2018, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

- 4. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other action taken in relation to discipline as the Board deems proper.
 - 5. Section 2234 of the Business and Professions Code (Code), states:

"The board shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- "(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter.
 - "(b) Gross negligence.
- "(c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more negligent acts or omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a separate and distinct departure from the applicable standard of care shall constitute repeated negligent acts.
- "(1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single negligent act.
- "(2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.
 - "(d) Incompetence.
- "(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.
 - "(f) Any action or conduct which would have warranted the denial of a certificate.
- "(g) The practice of medicine from this state into another state or country without meeting the legal requirements of that state or country for the practice of medicine. Section 2314 shall not apply to this subdivision. This subdivision shall become operative upon the implementation of the

proposed registration program described in Section 2052.5.

- "(h) The repeated failure by a certificate holder, in the absence of good cause, to attend and participate in an interview by the board. This subdivision shall only apply to a certificate holder who is the subject of an investigation by the board."
- 6. Section 2266 of the Code states: "The failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes unprofessional conduct."
 - 7. Section 822 of the Code, states:

"If a licensing agency determines that its licentiate's ability to practice his or her profession safely is impaired because the licentiate is mentally ill, or physically ill affecting competency, the licensing agency may take action by any one of the following methods:

- "(a) Revoking the licentiate's certificate or license.
- "(b) Suspending the licentiate's right to practice.
- "(c) Placing the licentiate on probation.
- "(d) Taking such other action in relation to the licentiate as the licensing agency in its discretion deems proper.

"The licensing agency shall not reinstate a revoked or suspended certificate or license until it has received competent evidence of the absence or control of the condition which caused its action and until it is satisfied that with due regard for the public health and safety the person's right to practice his or her profession may be safely reinstated."

- 8. Section 2238 of the Code states:
- "A violation of any federal statute or federal regulation or any of the statutes or regulations of this state regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances constitutes unprofessional conduct."
 - 9. Section 11170 of the Health and Safety Code states:

"No person shall prescribe, administer, or furnish a controlled substance for himself."

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

10. Respondent suffers from a debilitating mental and/or physical ailment which impairs

his ability to practice medicine safely, with due regard for the public health, safety and welfare. The Board received a complaint following the death of Respondent's patient, M.W.¹ Thereafter, the Board initiated an investigation into Respondent's care for M.W., and during the investigation, Respondent's illness became apparent. Subsequently, a neurologist and a psychiatrist each evaluated Respondent and each determined that he was unable to practice safely.

INTERVIEW

Affairs' Division of Investigation's Health Quality Investigations Unit (HQIU) and a Department of Consumer Affairs Medical Consultant physician interviewed Respondent in connection with the investigation. At the interview, Respondent was asked questions about his medical training. He had a hard time comprehending and answering the questions. He was asked to name the medical providers working for him in his office. He had trouble recalling the physician names who worked in his office. Even with the help of his own translator, he had difficulty describing the management of common illnesses such as upper respiratory illness, chest pain, abdominal pain and knee pain. Respondent also displayed signs of Parkinson's disease. He appeared fatigued and showed delay in comprehending the questions. He also displayed motor rigidity and had a masked facial expression. Respondent was unable to complete the interview.

MEDICAL EVALUATION

12. On or about June 27, 2017, Respondent met with A.E., M.D., who is board certified in Psychiatry and Neurology. Based upon his evaluation of Respondent, Dr. A.E. concluded that Respondent is not able to safely practice medicine, nor safely perform any of the following actions: examining patients, rendering accurate diagnoses, and effectively communicating treatment plans.

MENTAL EVALUATION

13. On or about June 28, 2017, Respondent met with D.S., M.D., who is board certified in Psychiatry and Neurology. Based upon his evaluation of Respondent, Dr. D.S. concluded that

¹ The patient's initials are used to protect privacy. The identity of the patient is known to the Respondent and will be further provided in response to an appropriate Request for Discovery.

Respondent is not able to safely practice medicine. Dr. D.S. found that Respondent suffers from dementia and cognitive impairment and that Respondent's continued practice of medicine without any restrictions or conditions poses a present danger or threat to public health, safety or welfare.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unable to Practice Safely Due to Mental/Physical Illness)

- 14. Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Code section 822 in that his ability to practice medicine safely is impaired because he is mentally and/or physically ill in a manner affecting competency. The circumstances of Respondent's illnesses are as follows:
- 15. The allegations in paragraphs 10 through 13, inclusive, above are incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence)

16. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2234, subdivision (b), in that he committed gross negligence. The circumstances are as follows:

Patient M.W.

17. On or about November 30, 2010, M.W., a healthy, non-smoking, college student, presented to Respondent with no reported history of past illnesses or allergies. The patient's questionnaire indicated "nervous" under emotions, "nervous" under nerves, and "back spasms" under muscles and bones. Patient M.W.'s medical history on his chart listed "anxiety." Vital signs of weight, height, blood pressure and temperature were also listed. No physical exam findings were indicated. At his interview, Respondent indicated that he performed a complete physical examination of M.W., including a genital and a prostate examination. Respondent diagnosed M.W. with "Anxiety - Depression, muscle spasm," and he prescribed to M.W., 60 tablets of Alprazolam 2 mg twice a day and 30 tablets of Soma to be taken daily. The chart form for the visit also indicated with check marks that the following items under patient education had been discussed: "Advanced Directives, Asthma, Cholesterol, Dental, Diabetes, Diet/Nutrition, Exercise, Family Planning, Hypertension, Injury Prevention, Medications, Obesity, Self Breast Exam [even though the patient was a male], STD's, Substance Use, Testicular Self-Exam,

Tobacco Cessation, Tuberculosis and Other." No follow up date is documented.

- 18. On or about December 9, 2010, M.W. returned to Respondent's office with a chief complaint of "anxiety, hard time falling asleep." No other history is documented. The chart form for the visit also indicated with check marks that all of the physical examination items for 14 organ systems, including Breast (even though the patient was a male), Genitalia and Rectal, were "WNL" (within normal limits). Respondent diagnosed M.W. with Anxiety and he treated M.W. with prescriptions for Alprazolam 2 mg TID #90. The chart form for the visit also indicated with check marks that all of the items under patient education had been discussed, including Self Breast Exam (even though the patient was a male). There was a note for a return visit in one month.
- 19. On or about January 12, 2011, M.W. returned to Respondent's office with a chief complaint of "insomnia." No other history was documented. A physical examination was not performed at this visit. M.W. was diagnosed with "insomnia" and the patient was prescribed Alprazolam 2 mg qHS #30.
- 20. On or about February 7, 2011, M.W. returned to Respondent's office with a chief complaint of "refills." The history reports that the patient was a shift worker and denies sleep walking and feels well. A physical examination was documented, indicating that the patient is in no acute distress with normal heart and lung exam. The patient was diagnosed with insomnia and the patient was prescribed Alprazolam 2 mg qHS, #30.
- 21. On or about September 9, 2011, M.W. returned to Respondent's office complaining of sleeping problems. While vital signs were documented, no other history or physical examination was documented. The patient was diagnosed with Anxiety and Depression and Respondent prescribed Alprazolam 2 mg bid #60 to the patient.
- 22. On or about October 7, 2011, M.W. returned to Respondent's office complaining of problems sleeping. While vital signs were documented, no other history or physical examination was documented. The patient was diagnosed with Anxiety and Depression and Respondent prescribed Alprazolam 2 mg bid #60 to the patient.
 - 23. On or about November 11, 2011, M.W. returned to Respondent's office complaining

of a sleep problem. While vital signs were documented, no other history or physical examination was documented. The patient was diagnosed with Anxiety and Depression and Respondent prescribed Alprazolam 2 mg bid #60 to the patient.

- 24. On or about November 12, 2011, M.W. was brought to the emergency room after he was found unresponsive and not breathing by his father. He was admitted to the Verdugo Hills Hospital after being resuscitated by paramedics. He was noted to have a history of heroin abuse and was found to be "brain dead." His date of death was listed as November 17, 2011. The Los Angeles County Coroner's report on M.W. indicated that M.W. died from complications from "anoxic brain damage and systemic shock as a result of drug overdose," and that the hospital toxicology screen indicated the presence of opiates and benzodiazepines.
- 25. On or about November 30, 2010, and thereafter, Respondent failed to adequately obtain the patient's history related to his present illness other than the chief complaint. Moreover, while the patient indicated that he does not use alcohol or tobacco, Respondent failed to illicit any information from the patient regarding his recreational drug use, if any. At subsequent visits, Respondent failed to perform a pertinent review of systems. And, at subsequent visits, Respondent failed to obtain the patient's medical history, and his medical records only included the chief complaint obtained by his clinic staff.
- 26. On or about November 30, 2010, and thereafter, Respondent was grossly negligent when he failed to obtain and/or document an adequate medical history at each visit with M.W.
- 27. Respondent's medical records for M.W.'s initial visit with him indicate that a physical examination was not performed. However, on or about December 9, 2010, M.W. presented to Respondent with a chief complaint of "anxiety, hard time falling asleep," and Respondent's documentation for that visit indicated that he performed a complete physical examination, including a rectal examination of M.W. At subsequent visits with M.W. Respondent did not perform any physical examinations.
- 28. On or about November 30, 2010, and thereafter, Respondent was grossly negligent when he failed to perform and/or document an adequate physical examination at each visit with patient M.W.

29.	Respondent documented an assessment (diagnosis) and plan, which indicated
medication	ns prescribed at each patient encounter. And, some visits indicated that a follow up
visit was r	recommended. Respondent's documentation of counseling was limited to patient
education	items being discussed. Moreover, Respondent's documentation indicated all items
marked or	n the form, including breast self-exams and tobacco cessation, neither of which applied
to M.W. I	Further, Respondent failed to refer M.W. to counseling for his anxiety.

- 30. On or about November 30, 2010, and thereafter, Respondent was grossly negligent when he failed to prepare and/or document an adequate treatment plan for M.W.
- 31. During his treatment of M.W., Respondent diagnosed the patient with anxiety and depression, and repeatedly prescribed Alprazolam 2 mg tablets over a twelve-month period to M.W., for anxiety and sleep problems. Although Alprazolam, a benzodiazepine can be indicated for the treatment of anxiety and insomnia, it has a high habituation potential and should only be used short-term. Respondent failed to consider and offer M.W. any selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor medications to treat his anxiety and depression in lieu of the benzodiazepine. Respondent also failed to provide a referral to or refer M.W. for behavioral therapy, despite M.W.'s persistent symptoms.
- 32. On or about November 30, 2010, and thereafter, Respondent was grossly negligent when he failed to discuss alternative treatments and/or refer M.W. for additional treatment, and/or document that he did so.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Repeated Negligent Acts)

- 33. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2234, subdivision (c), in that Respondent committed repeated negligent acts. The circumstances are as follows:
- 34. The allegations of the First and Second Causes for Discipline are incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth.
- 35. Each of the alleged acts of gross negligence set forth above in the Second Cause for Discipline is also a negligent act.
 - 36. Each of Respondent's failures to illicit from the patient and adequately document

section 11057, subdivision (f)(4), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Code section 4022.

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1	himself. The circumstances are as follows:			
2	42. The allegations of paragraph 38 above are incorporated herein by reference as if fully			
3	set forth.			
4	SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE			
5	(General Unprofessional Conduct)			
6	43. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2234, in that his			
7	actions and/or omissions represent unprofessional conduct, generally. The circumstances are as			
8	follows:			
9	44. The allegations of the First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Causes for Discipline are			
10	incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth.			
11	<u>PRAYER</u>			
12	WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,			
13	and that following the hearing, the Medical Board of California issue a decision:			
14	1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A49771,			
15	issued to Ricardo Oscar Di Sarli, M.D.;			
16	2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Ricardo Oscar Di Sarli, M.D.'s			
17	authority to supervise physician assistants, pursuant to section 3527 of the Code, and ordering			
18	him not to supervise advance practice nurses;			
19	3. Ordering Ricardo Oscar Di Sarli, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the			
20	costs of probation monitoring; and			
21	4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.			
22	DATED: July 26, 2017			
23	Executive Director Medical Board of California			
24	Department of Consumer Affairs State of California			
25	Complainant			
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